

fourth graders or one national test, and that is Federal Government test, in mathematics for eight graders, we will have ceded the control of our children's education over to faceless, nameless Washington bureaucrats deep in the bowels of the education establishment, deep in the bowels of the Department of Education, or in some consulting firm.

Mr. Speaker, I think we owe our children better than that. We cannot give away local control of our schools to Federal bureaucrats. Why would a national test do that? Members say, how can a national test be that dangerous? How can it be that threatening? The answer is a simple one: What is tested is what will be taught. We all understand that.

My daughter, Courtney, back in Phoenix, AZ, and my son, Stephen, are doing well in school, but they are doing well because their teachers, and I have faith in teachers, they are good people, their teachers learn what Courtney and Stephen are going to be tested on, and they make sure that in the curriculum they teach them what they will be tested upon.

So what is tested is what will be taught, and if we allow the test to be written in Washington, D.C., then what will be taught across America will be what some Federal bureaucrat deep in the bowels of the education department decides ought to be taught, because they will write the test, and your children's teacher and my children's teachers will be forced to teach to that test. We must block that effort to nationalize education. That fight is now, here in Washington, today. The decision will be made in Washington next week. There will be a vote in the U.S. Senate and a vote in the U.S. House.

Americans who do not want to give up control over their children's education to a bunch of nameless, faceless Washington bureaucrats need to speak out now. They need to call Washington, call their Congressman, call their Senator, and say, do not let national testing steal control away from our teachers in our neighborhood, from our school board in our neighborhood.

Some of the proponents of this idea say, do not worry, it is only voluntary. That is a hollow defense of a bad idea, because in America today there are only about 4 or 5 textbook writers. If we write one national test in Washington, D.C. and say, this will be given to all kids, sure, you will be able to opt out of the test, but the textbook writers, the people who write the curriculum for the schools, will write to that test. They will have no choice. If you sit on a school board or if you sit in your parent-teacher council and do not like that test, do not like that curriculum, you will have no choice.

We have to reject this idea and reject it now, and reject it decisively by a vote in the U.S. Senate as early as next week. I urge Americans who care about their children's education to speak out, and not let Washington seize control of

their school's education program. The price is simply too high.

There are radicals in Washington, D.C. who are writing a radical test; a test that, for example, in math does not even test basic math skills. But make no mistake about it, it does not matter whether the radicals write the test or good people write the test. If the test is a top-down, Washington-knows-best, one-size-fits-all idea, it will hurt education, because it will cost those parents and teachers in your school control of education in their neighborhoods. I hope Americans are listening.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RYUN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today after 4 p.m. and tomorrow, on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

Mr. HOUGHTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. CLAY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. FATTAH, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SCOTT, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. FORD, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. SANCHEZ, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes on October 28.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. BILBRAY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. CUNNINGHAM, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SHADEGG, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. LANTOS.  
Ms. HARMAN.  
Mr. STARK.  
Mr. KIND.  
Mr. CUMMINGS.  
Ms. STABENOW.  
Mr. STOKES.  
Mr. BARCIA.  
Mr. ANDREWS.  
Ms. SANCHEZ.  
Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.  
Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN.  
Mr. VISCLOSKEY.  
Mr. KILDEE.  
Mr. SERRANO.  
Mr. HAMILTON.  
Mr. DICKS.  
Mr. SHERMAN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. GILMAN.  
Mr. PAPPAS.  
Mr. HYDE.  
Mr. BEREUTER.  
Mrs. MORELLA.  
Mr. WALSH.  
Mr. BALLENGER.  
Mr. CALVERT.  
Mr. PAUL.  
Mr. EHLERS.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HOEKSTRA) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BUYER.  
Mr. BURTON of Indiana.  
Ms. KAPTUR.  
Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado.  
Mr. SPRATT.  
Mr. FILNER.  
Mr. CRANE.  
Mr. GINGRICH.  
Ms. KILPATRICK.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony honoring Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope by conferring upon him the status of an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on House Oversight.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 97. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that